

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

NE 19.(Withdrawn) An end effector for use in an ultrasonic surgical instrument, wherein said end effector comprises;

an ultrasonic transmission rod having a proximal end and a distal end;

an ultrasonically actuated blade attached to said distal end of the transmission rod, wherein the blade comprises:

a distal end;

a proximal end connected to the transmission rod at a longitudinal vibratory node point;

a treatment portion including at least one functional asymmetry and a balance asymmetry, wherein the balance asymmetry is positioned to counter torque created at the proximal end of the blade by the functional asymmetry.

20.(Withdrawn) The end effector of claim 19, wherein the balance asymmetry is positioned such that transverse vibrations in at least one axis at the distal end of the blade are substantially equal to zero.

21.(Currently amended) An ultrasonic surgical instrument comprising:

a waveguide having a proximal end and a distal end; ~~for use in an ultrasonic surgical instrument, wherein the waveguide comprises:~~

~~a balanced~~ an ultrasonically actuated blade positioned at the distal end of the waveguide, wherein the blade comprises:

a distal end;

a proximal end;

a curved treatment portion, and the curved treatment portion comprising

~~a balance portion including~~ at least one ~~balance~~ functional asymmetry, wherein the ~~balance~~ functional asymmetry is positioned to counter torque created by the curved treatment portion.

22.(Currently amended) The ~~waveguide~~ ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 21, wherein the ~~balance-portion~~ functional asymmetry extends from the distal end of the blade to a point within the treatment portion.

23.(Currently amended) The ~~waveguide~~ ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 21, wherein the ~~balance-portion~~ functional asymmetry extends from the distal end of the blade to a point proximal to the treatment portion.

24.(Currently amended) An ultrasonic surgical instrument ~~including a balanced blade, the surgical instrument comprises~~ comprising:

- a handle including a ultrasonic handpiece;
- an ultrasonic waveguide having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the proximal end is operatively connected to the handpiece;
- ~~the balanced a~~ blade connected to the distal end of the waveguide, wherein the ~~balanced~~ blade comprises:
 - a distal end;
 - a proximal end connected to the waveguide ~~at a longitudinal vibratory node point; and~~
 - a curved treatment portion including at least one functional asymmetry ~~and a balance region including as least one balance asymmetry~~, wherein the ~~balance asymmetry~~ functional asymmetry is positioned to counter torque created by the ~~functional asymmetry~~ curved treatment portion.

25.(Currently amended) The surgical instrument of claim 24, wherein the ~~balance asymmetry~~ functional asymmetry is positioned such that transverse vibrations are substantially equal to zero.

26.(Canceled) An ultrasonic waveguide having a proximal end and a distal end for use in an ultrasonic surgical instrument, wherein the waveguide comprises:

- a balanced ultrasonically actuated blade positioned at the distal end of the waveguide, wherein the blade comprises:

a distal end;

a proximal end;

a treatment portion defined in part by a first radiused cut defining a first side and offset from a second radiused cut defining a second side to form a curved geometry, and the treatment portion further comprising at least one balance asymmetry, wherein the balance asymmetry is positioned to counter torque created by the curved geometry.

27.(New) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 21, wherein the functional asymmetry is a spherical cut.

28.(New) The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 24, wherein the functional asymmetry is a spherical cut.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

None